

**NOTES ON THE SUNDAY SCHOOL
LESSON FOR APRIL 3.**

Jesus Visits Tyre and Sidon.

(Mark 7: 24-37.)

Golden Text: Without faith it is impossible to please him. (Hebrews 11: 6.)

The Syro-Phoenician Woman.—The coming of Jesus into the country round about Tyre and Sidon must have awakened considerable stir, and the news of his arrival and the fame of his miraculous power soon spread throughout the entire region.

Among those who heard of the Master's presence was a woman, described as "a Canaanite" by Matthew, and as "a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician," by Mark.

Persistent Pleading.—Matthew tells us that to the first appeal of the Syro-Phoenician woman Jesus answered not a word. But the woman persisted so strongly in her entreaty that the disciples begged the Master to dismiss her from their presence. Then occurred that brief but significant colloquy in which Jesus tests the faith of the suppliant to the extreme limit. He tells her that it is not meet to take the children's bread and give it to the dogs (literally the little dogs, meaning, not the fierce, ravenous creatures which roam the streets of an Oriental city, but rather the little house-dogs, which are the children's pets and which are allowed to take their place under the table when the family are at meals).

The Syro-Phoenician woman quickly assents to the statement of Jesus, and yet in such a way as to claim for herself and her daughter the blessing for which she had asked, for her reply is, "Yea, Lord: even the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs."

The Reward of Faith.—The test imposed by Jesus had fulfilled his purpose. Jesus' seeming reluctance in granting her request had not altered the faith of the suppliant. So without further delay the woman's request was granted, and upon her return to her home she found that her daughter was healed.

Another miracle of healing followed in quick succession upon the incident which has just been related. A man who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech was brought to Jesus. Taking the man aside, the Master quickly spoke the word that was needed, and immediately the man's ears were opened and his tongue released from its infirmity.

The miracles here recorded resulted in what was practically a new life both for the child afflicted with an unclean spirit and the man who was deaf and dumb. So the Resurrection of Jesus assures to us not only our future resurrection from the grave, but, if we accept him as our Lord and Saviour, it brings to us now a resurrection from spiritual death into a new life, hid with Christ in God.

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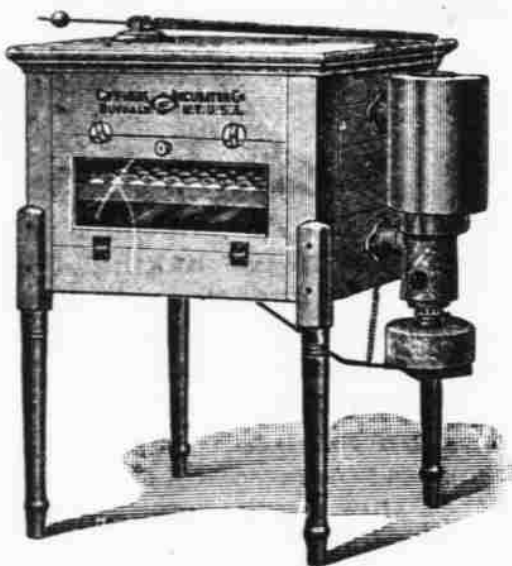
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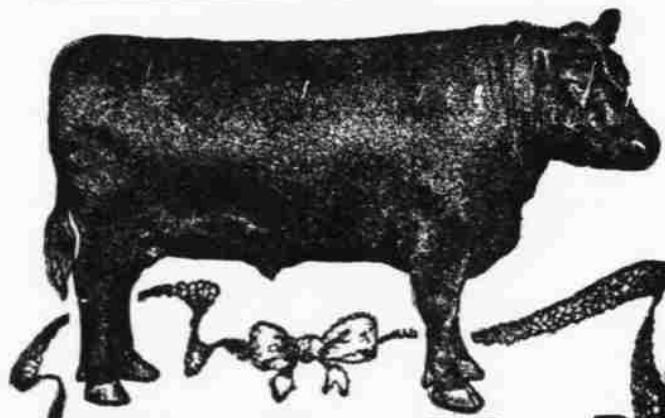
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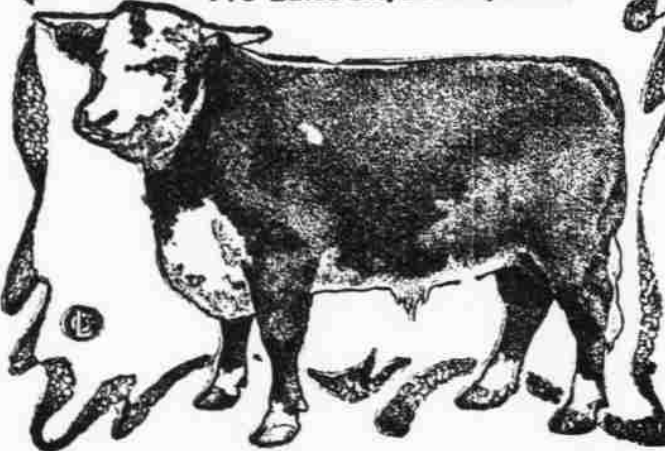
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